

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2019 at 4:30 pm in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Erickson, Duane Pierce, Ed Koslowski, Ken Corry, Jerry Polus, Joan Brusky, Joe Aulik
EXCUSED: Louise Dahlke, Kerry R. Metoxen

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 4:30 pm.

2. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Joan Brusky, seconded by Jerry Polus to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. Approve/Modify Minutes of January 15th, 2019.

Motion made by Joan Brusky, seconded by Duane Pierce to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. Welcome New CVSO Joe Aulik.

New Brown County CVSO Joe Aulik was welcomed. He spoke a bit about his last name and family, about his time in the Air Force (83-90), and how he's been in the CVSO for around 20 years in different locations, including Kewaunee and Winnebago. He stated that he is glad to be here serving hometown vets, he grew up in Ashwaubenon.

Ericksen informed him everyone is pleased all the way around to have him here and happy they didn't lose Polus as he is on this committee now too and they plan to do some recruiting.

5. Discussion re: Honor Rewards Program.

Ericksen explained this is a program specifically for discounts for Veterans specifically.

Aulik stated he is familiar with it and, specifically, there are around 94 businesses on the list. Aulik noted they are constantly communicating with businesses to add to the list.

Ericksen thought they could maybe go on AARP and look for their benefits for discounts and they could go off that.

Polus stated that Hometown Café gave him a 10% discount recently.

Ericksen noted that Denny's also does.

6. Discussion re: 2019 Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.

Koslowski noted that it would be on a Sunday. He spoke of looking into hiring a Military band there so that they don't have to hire a band.

Ericksen spoke to the fact that the band should get some time on one of the main stages because playing for only an hour and a half or 2 hours wouldn't be worthwhile.

Koslowski highlighted the fact that the Fair's flyer is printed in early April so they have to know by the end of March what they are going to put into that flyer. If they do have a band commitment then that must be added. He said Kevin Bauer could perform again for them.

Polus said that they have had the Navy band and the Air Force band before.

Aulik said that he would look into it.

Ericksen reiterated the size of the stage and reminded them that it can't be too large. Also in the past they have compensated them with dinner and things of the like but it didn't specifically cost a dollar amount.

Ericksen said they need to know the plan by the next meeting in March.

7. Discussion re: Possibly Honoring Peacetime and Non-Combat Veterans at the Fair.

Koslowski mentioned that Corry had brought forth the idea of honoring Afghanistan and Iraqi Veterans in the last meeting.

There was discussion wondering if there were anniversary Veterans that could be honored this year.

Corry noted that 2021 would be the 20 year mark for Afghanistan. He talked about the possibility of opening it up to honoring an era, such as 1975-1990.

Polus noted that there are still some around from post WWII and Brusky emphasized that as well.

Corry noted that the Peacetime Era Veterans idea could honor Veterans that served between one war and another and then another time between another set of wars. It honors those that served between 2 separate sets of wars.

Koslowski thought they would get backlash on that.

Ericksen said there would be individuals saying they served but didn't get anything. They get the same amount of people every year. The best turnout was Vietnam. He then noted a couple sets of Veterans that did not show up well in recent years. The point was they can say something nonspecific so that they get a better turnout.

Brusky stated it was good to publicly honor them regardless.

Ericksen gave an example of a Veteran that does a lot for the Veteran community and he served during Vietnam time but he was in Germany, he should be acknowledged too.

Koslowski wondered if they could honor family support or spouses.

Ericksen said that having a crowd is his main concern, they could honor a Veteran group that has already been honored again. He said the more people that walk out with a prize, the happier the people are and they end up coming back next year.

Ericksen also stated that they have time to decide this yet and they're on the right track.

Corry mentioned that maybe they could do something honoring future veterans and their families, maybe a swearing in ceremony of some kind.

Aulik thought that to encompass a good amount of Veterans that haven't been honored they could do Peacetime, Noncombat and Cold War Veterans all in one honoring.

This item will appear on the March agenda as well.

8. Report from committee Members Present (Erickson, Brusky, Corry, Koslowski, Pierce, Polus).

Ericksen informed the committee that Gary Steenbock had recently passed away. He then passed around an obituary and a card for the committee to sign if they so choose to give to his wife. He spoke to the fact that his wife, Sherry, may have been one of the founders of this committee.

Brusky wanted to make everyone aware of the "Old Glory Flight Return to Vietnam" that is happening soon. The details include, there are 53 Veterans from Northeast Wisconsin are going on an honor flight back to Vietnam on Sunday. They will be there over 2 weeks, they had over 500 people that applied. She noted her husband is a Vietnam Vet and he didn't know anything about this so she wanted to educate the committee about it. She thought this was a really special story and trip and she read a quote from the newspaper to the committee about how, "it will give these Veterans an opportunity for some closure, seeing firsthand how the Vietnamese people have recovered from the war and undoubtedly induce some much needed healing for them."

Corry mentioned that there will be yoga and beer free for Veterans on the Saturday following this meeting at Titledown from noon-1. Every Tuesday also there is yoga at Flo Yoga at 6pm for Veterans for free and you can bring your spouse for \$5.

Koslowski mentioned that on March 9th at 2pm their post is having a meat raffle at Harbor Lights. There will also be a fishing derby that day as well. On March 30th they picked up the Avenue Bar on Velp to do an additional one.

Pierce reminded everyone of the Pearly Gates ride on July 13th and he believes the ceremony will honor Afghanistan Veterans this year. They have gun raffle tickets for sale already, cash raffle tickets will be on sale shortly for the \$15,000 prize. They are \$100 tickets and they are only selling 700 of them. Also, September 12th-15th "The Wall that Heals" will be in Manitowoc. He will have more on this at the next meeting. It is an exact replica of the one that is in D.C. They've had this version on the road for some time and the Crivitz stop on Labor Day Weekend was the best they've ever had as 25,000 people showed up. 1/3rd of the town showed up to volunteer and they had organizational meetings 9 months in advance.

Polus didn't have anything to add.

9. Such other matters as authorized by law.

Pierce mentioned that Veterans Resource Group meets March 6th at 11am at Concordia.

10. Adjourn.

Motion made by Ed Koslowski, seconded by Ken Corry to adjourn at 5:15 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Cayden S. Lasecki
Administrative Assistant